



**ORAL PRESENTATION**

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# Cardiac energy metabolism and oxygenation during exercise in the hypertensive heart

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## Background

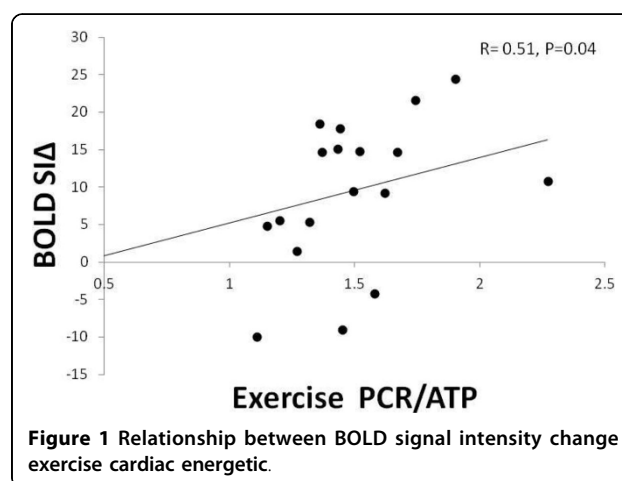
Hypertension (HPT) is an important risk factor for heart disease worldwide. It is already established that in hypertension there is an abnormal oxygenation response to stress (by exploiting the paramagnetic properties of deoxyhemoglobin, blood oxygen level-dependent, BOLD). Additionally, abnormal resting cardiac energetics (phosphocreatine/adenosine triphosphate, PCr/ATP, as measured by <sup>31</sup>Phosphorus MR Spectroscopy, <sup>31</sup>P MRS) has been reported. However, it is not known if this energetic profile worsens with the increasing energy demand of exercise, and if so, if the blunted Oxygen supply response may contribute to this. Understanding this relation can lend new insights into the pathophysiology and management of hypertensive heart disease. We hypothesized that cardiac energetic are abnormal at rest and are further impaired during acute exercise in HPT, and that this impairment is related to abnormal oxygenation during stress.

## Methods

Cardiac <sup>31</sup>P MRS (3T) was performed in 17 hypertensive patients, and 20 age and gender matched normal controls at rest and during 8 minutes of leg exercise lying prone, with 2.5 kg weights attached to both legs. BOLD (using a T2-prepared sequence) and first-pass perfusion images (using a saturation recovery fast-gradient echo sequence and 0.03 mmol/kg Gd-DTPA bolus) were also acquired at stress (4-6 minutes i.v. adenosine, 140 µg/kg/min) and rest. Signal intensity change (SIA) and myocardial perfusion reserve index (MPRI) were measured from BOLD and perfusion images, respectively.

## Results

Increases in rate pressure product with exercise (HPT  $74 \pm 44\%$ , normal  $73 \pm 40\%$ ,  $P = 0.71$ ) and adenosine stress (HPT  $73 \pm 46\%$ , normal  $73 \pm 37\%$ ,  $P = 0.67$ ) were similar. In normals, there was no change in PCr/ATP during exercise (rest:  $2.16 \pm 0.08$ , exercise:  $2.15 \pm 0.06$ ,  $P = 0.97$ ). Resting PCr/ATP was significantly reduced in HPT ( $1.63 \pm 0.07$ ,  $P = 0.001$  vs controls), and during exercise, there was a further reduction in PCr/ATP ( $1.49 \pm 0.07$ ,  $P = 0.03$  vs rest). There was a significantly reduced BOLD SIA response in HPT (BOLD SIA:  $10 \pm 2\%$ ; normal  $20 \pm 0.01\%$ ,  $P = 0.004$ ). MPRI was also significantly reduced in HPT ( $1.6 \pm 0.07$ ; normal  $1.9 \pm 0.02$ ,  $P = 0.001$ ). There was a weak but significant correlation between BOLD SIA and MPRI per segment, ( $R = 0.25$ ,  $P = 0.006$ ). Importantly, in HPT, there was a significant correlation between exercise PCr/ATP and BOLD SIA ( $R = 0.51$ ,  $P = 0.04$ ), Figure 1.



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## Conclusions

During exercise, the pre-existing energetic deficit in HPT is further exacerbated and correlates with the blunted myocardial oxygenation response to vasodilator stress. In the hypertensive heart, myocardial tissue hypoxia during stress may play a significant pathophysiological role by inducing adverse metabolic changes in the myocardium.

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